

September 1, 2017

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**Russian River-Cotati Intertie Pipeline Seismic Hazard Mitigation
at Mark West Creek Crossing Project
ECM PIN CW-825699; WDID 1B16904WNSO**

Sonoma County

On June 20, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Water Agency (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Russian River-Cotati Intertie Pipeline Seismic Hazard Mitigation at Mark West Creek Crossing Project (project). A revised application was submitted on June 29, 2017.

Project Location

The project is located near Wohler Road in Forestville, at latitude 38.492726°N, and longitude 122.887112°W. The proposed project would cause disturbances to Mark West Creek in the Lower Russian River watershed (114.11).

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to replace a section of major water service pipeline that is at risk of failure in a moderate to severe earthquake. The project will involve installation of 767 linear feet of a 48-inch pipeline. The new pipeline will replace the existing pipeline under Mark West Creek and will be installed parallel to and within 25 feet of the existing pipeline and 6-8 feet deeper. The existing pipeline will be disconnected, filled with a low strength concrete mixture, and abandoned in place.

Project construction would occur in the following sequence: site clearing, trench construction, pipe installation, and trench backfilling in short segments extending in phases down the length of the pipeline alignment. The existing pipe would be abandoned upon completion of new pipe installation. Site restoration would be conducted last. A cofferdam will be used to isolate the work area from the flow of Mark West Creek. The creek will flow around the isolated work area, providing fish passage at all times. The cofferdam will be constructed with steel sheet piles. Grout and possibly sand bags will seal the cofferdam around the contours of the existing pipe. Specific BMPs have been identified to monitor and eliminate potential impacts from jet grouting.

Riparian habitat that is removed for construction will be restored, plus an additional 0.04 acres of riparian habitat will be enhanced for a mitigation ratio of 1.1:1. Approximately 500 native riparian tree, shrub, and understory container plants will be installed.

Construction Timing

Ground disturbing activities in the creek channel would occur in the summer dry season between June 15 and October 15. The project is expected to take 1.5 years.

Impacts

Approximately 80 linear feet of Mark West Creek would be temporarily impacted, including 0.39 acres of riparian habitat.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

The 0.39 acres of disturbed riparian habitat will be restored and an additional 0.04 acres will be enhanced.

Total Maximum Daily Load

The Russian River is identified as impaired for sediment and temperature under Clean Water Act Section 303(d). The project includes provisions to reduce sediment impacts and will replant additional riparian vegetation to improve shade and temperature conditions.

Other Agency Permits

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Nationwide Permit, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The applicant has also submitted a section 1600 Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

CEQA

As lead agency, the Sonoma County Water Agency certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2015092001), pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Public Comments

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Kaete.King@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The Regional Water Board's project file includes the application for certification and additional details of the proposed project, including maps and design drawings. Project documents and any comments received are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.